

SENATE BILL 51

By Finney R.

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 21, relative to pupil transportation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§49-6-21__.

(a)

(1) Except as required by an LEA's policies and procedures for management of unruly students on school buses or policies and procedures pertaining to safety, no school bus driver shall require or permit a student to exit a bus from the time the student enters the bus until the bus reaches the student's destination for that trip.

(2) A violation of this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine only of up to one hundred dollars (\$100).

(3) The director of schools shall immediately review the fitness to drive of a school bus driver violating this subsection.

(b) A student whom a parent or guardian desires to exit a school bus at a point other than the student's regular bus stop on the student's return bus route after dismissal of school shall comply with all requirements of the LEA concerning a student's exit of a school bus at a point other than the student's regular bus stop and shall provide the bus driver with a signed note from the parent or guardian informing the driver of the change in the student's bus stop for that day. As soon as practicable after completion of the bus route, the driver shall turn the signed note over to the student's school principal. This subsection

does not prohibit an LEA from adopting more stringent policies and procedures than the requirements of this subsection with respect to a student presenting a note to the bus driver in order to exit at a point other than the student's regular bus stop or require an LEA to allow a student to exit at a point other than the student's regular bus stop, if the LEA has adopted or adopts a policy not permitting such action.

(c) A driver shall report to school authorities as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the route, any student refusing to obey the driver and exiting the bus without the driver's permission at a destination other than the student's destination for that trip.

(d) Each LEA, prior to the beginning of each school year or upon hire of a school bus driver during the school year, shall assure that all school bus drivers know and understand the LEA's policies and procedures concerning bus drivers' responsibilities and duties in managing unruly student behavior or conduct on a school bus, including those policies and procedures adopted pursuant to §49-6-4216, and the LEA's policies and procedures pertaining to safety.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.